

Judith Paz
Comunidades Sin Fronteras CSF-CT INC Norwalk, CT

Testimony in Support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning the Expansion of Husky's Health Benefits for Those Not Eligible Due to Immigration Status. Husky Health Benefits for those who are ineligible due to their Immigration Status.

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Gilcrest and members of the Human Services Committee.

My name is Judith Paz, I am married, have 2 daughters and live in Norwalk. I strongly support HB 6616 to expand access to the HUSKY program to undocumented individuals in CT who have access up to age 26.

I am part of Comunidades sin Fronteras which has 300 members in the state. I am also a member of Recovery For All - a statewide coalition fighting for a better future for CT with over 60 community, faith-based and labor organizations.

My mother-in-law became seriously ill, she was diagnosed with cancer, she was in treatment because of this disease. It all started when she felt pain in her stomach, it took months for her to be diagnosed with the disease, because from her medical appointment to the referral from the specialist it took many months to give her the appointment, we did not go to the hospital because we did not have medical insurance for fear of the bill and not being able to pay it.

It was very difficult to see her suffer, and my husband was very anxious about the situation they were going through because of their mother's health, which was getting worse and worse. My daughters have also suffered the loss of their grandmother. My mother-in-law passed away in the fall of 2021, due to cancer, which metastasized through several organs in her body.

If she had had medical insurance, her medical appointments would have been faster, that is to say, they would have been given to her in a short period of time. I am giving this testimony because I want you to know that there are many families torn apart by the pain and death of a loved ones. We undocumented immigrants in the U.S. have less access to health insurance and are receiving lower quality care. We undocumented immigrants in the United States have less access to health insurance and are receiving lower quality care than native-born people. Challenges in accessing medical care have only intensified, widening existing inequalities and increasing deaths from disease.

I Support HB 6616 and I hope you will take up the bill in favor of immigrant families who so desperately need health insurance. Thank you, God bless you.

Judith Paz.
Norwalk, CT